



CITY OF RENTON LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

2021 Key Transportation Projects

NOTE: Renton strongly supports enactment of a transportation investment package—or “new revenue package”—in the 2021 Session. The City believes the package should address key safety, congestion, and capacity needs; should be multi-modal in its approach; and should invest systematically so that both the state and local government needs are met. Renton’s State Legislative Agenda briefly lists the projects, program, and funding priorities for a package; and this paper elaborates on key projects.

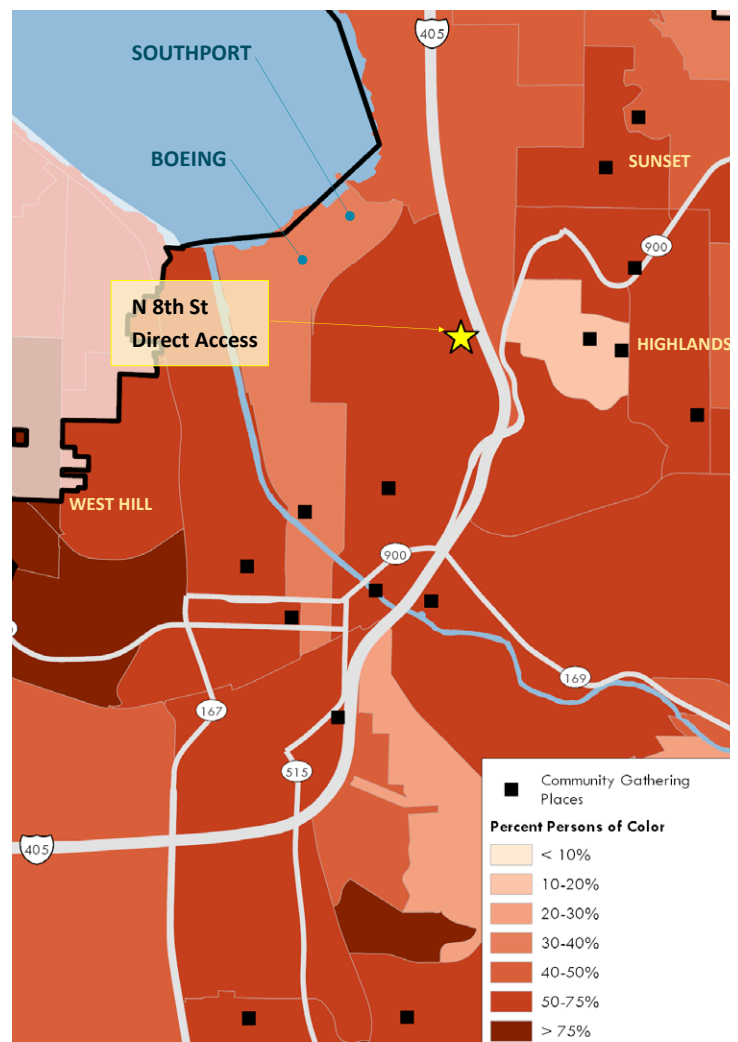
2021 TRANSPORTATION NEW REVENUE PACKAGE

N. 8th Direct Access Ramp (Est. \$230 Million)

THE IDEA OF A N. 8TH STREET DIRECT ACCESS RAMP is included in the Interstate 405 Master Plan and also was a part of the original “Sound Move” plan developed to guide Sound Transit’s investments. The project, which would involve construction of a direct transit and HOV access ramp at 405 (extending up from Houser Way), received an initial \$20 million allocation through the 405/167/509 tolling legislation enacted by the 2019 Legislature (ESSB 5825). **Renton urges that final design and construction of this project, estimated to cost about \$230 million, be included in any 2021 Transportation Package.**

The N. 8th project would offer direct access in the center of the Renton community via 8th and Garden Avenue North, connecting to key regional growth centers downtown and at The Landing/Southport and employment hubs such as Boeing, Paccar, and Southport. This area is also a key access point for lower-income and under-served communities near downtown Renton and area mapping shows that the population served is between 50 and 75 percent people of color. These communities have a heavy reliance on transit and transit access.

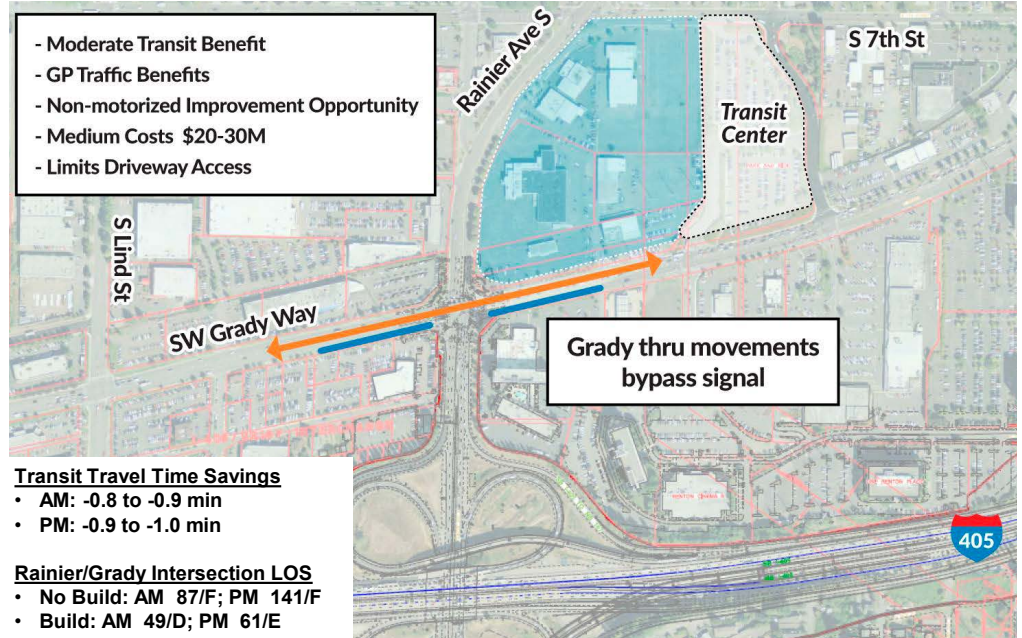
Absent completion of the N. 8th direct access ramp, the only transit/HOV access to the High Occupancy Toll lanes (HOT Lanes) being built through Renton would be at the far north (405/44th) and south ends (405/167) of the City. People who need to access the HOT lanes from neighborhoods such as Kennydale, Sunset, Highlands, and Maple Valley Highway would have to merge across multiple lanes of traffic.



Grady Way Overcrossing off 405/167 to save nearly two (2) minutes of transit travel time (Est. \$55M)

ANOTHER KEY PROJECT for Renton as well as the larger region is in the immediate vicinity of the I-405/SR 167 interchange, where Sound Transit is building a new Bus Rapid Transit station at Rainier Avenue and Grady Way to service BRT users on the Bellevue-to-Burien leg of 405 BRT beginning in 2024. There are significant safety and weaving hazards for BRT buses and all vehicles off of this freeway interchange, impeding travel to the planned BRT station. Renton has worked with WSDOT on design and costing out of an overcrossing at Grady Way and Rainier that would reduce traffic weaving and queuing and is estimated to save transit nearly two (2) minutes of AM and PM

peak travel time. *This project was a part of the 405 Master Plan and Renton urges it be included in any new revenue package.*



Eastrail: Extend Corridor from Milepost 5 to South Coulon Park/Southport Entrance (Est. \$6M)



A COALITION comprised of King and Snohomish counties, multiple cities, Sound Transit, Eastrail Partners, REI, Google, SECO Development, and many others is working to construct a continuous Eastside Rail Corridor (now known as "Eastrail") along old Burlington Northern/Santa Fe trackage between Renton and South Snohomish County. A key part of constructing a fully connected Eastrail is to address 4-5 gaps in the system. One of the key gaps is in Renton, where the existing Eastrail terminates at Milepost 5, just beyond the north entrance to Coulon Park. Extending Eastrail from Milepost 5 to the South Coulon Park/Southport entrance offers a generational opportunity for Eastrail supporters to ultimately link the trail with the existing Cedar River Trail and the planned Lake-to-Sound Trail, both of which run through Renton. *With funding (estimated at \$6 million), this project could be underway within five (5) years.*